

children, being found in only four cases of this series. Of these two died of symptoms typical of interstitial nephritis. The authors regard the blood urea as a very helpful prognostic test in the nephritis of childhood. The results of the phenolsulphonephthalein test are usually in accord with the clinical findings and the blood urea. The carbon dioxid combining power of the blood is a very reliable method of ascertaining the severity of the acidosis in the diarrheal acidosis.

OBSTETRICS

UNDER THE CHARGE OF

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Frequency of Shoulder Presentation in Different Countries.—IPPOLITO (*Gazzetta degli Ospedali e delle Cliniche*, Milan, March 2, 1919) has collected statistics from six different countries showing that the proportion of shoulder presentation ranges from 0.35 per cent. in America, 0.36 in England, 0.58 per cent. in Germany, 0.66 in France, 0.71 in Austria. On the other hand Italy has an average of 1.40 per cent. shoulder presentations. In twenty years' practice in Sicily in 10,000 deliveries Ippolito encountered shoulder presentation in 0.2 per cent. Comparing the various races it is observed that shoulder presentation becomes less frequent the taller the mothers. While least common among Anglo-Saxons, it occurs most frequent among the Slavic races of Austria. However, the distance between the lower margin of the xiphoid appendage and the upper margin of the symphysis pubis is remarkably constant in women, irrespective of their height. Sicilian women are short but the shortness is in the legs, the length of the trunk and the distance between the xiphoid cartilage and the pubes are rather above than below the average. The writer insists then that the xiphopubic measurement is a very important measurement in obstetric practice. He believes that women are useful in preventing abuses among the poor working women in factories, improperly clad and wearing corsets.

The Transmission of Rabies to the Fetus.—REMLINGER (*Bull. de la Acad. de méd.*, April 8, 1919) has made experiments which confirm Konradi's results. When rabies is inoculated into animals they may not appear out of health for from one to three months, but the young born during this time show rabies and may have died before the mother contracts the disease. In Remlinger's experience one animal developed rabies one hundred and twenty-two days after the inoculation. This was sixty-eight days after the birth of the young and thirty-eight days after the death of the last one of the young. In some cases a year elapsed before the mother died from rabies contracted from the fetus. Young animals may be apparently healthy and yet if infected in the uterus may develop rabies at any time without further contact. It has

often been said that an animal that has never been exposed to the bite cannot acquire rabies but the experiences related illustrate the fact that the fetus might become immunized by small quantities of the rabies traversing the placenta. In some cases it is thought that rabies produces other clinical pictures than that of typical hydrophobia or paralytic rabies.

The Corpus Luteum in Neurologic Practice.—CLIMACO (*Endocrinology*, March, 1919) employed corpus luteum in some cases of male neurasthenics. Organic nervous diseases and the early stages of dementia precox were treated. In these no result was obtained. It had no effect upon the blood-pressure where arteriosclerosis was present. The best results were obtained in young females, less successful in the natural menopause and where a surgical menopause had been brought about there were no results. The drug did better when given by mouth. Two grains was as large a dose as indicated. The best results were seen in cases where there was evidence that the native corpus luteum was still present, but the giving of this cannot replace the natural functions. If menstruation is discontinued because the secretion of a gland, such as the pituitary, is disturbed corpus luteum will not bring on menstruation. The writer believes that this substance has a specific action and that administered extracts do not have the same success as the native hormone, but that the extract stimulates the native corpus luteum to function.

Hemorrhage of the Newborn Successfully Treated by Transfusion.—LOWENBURG (*Jour. Am. Med. Assn.*, May 31, 1919) reports the case of a girl, two days old, brought to the hospital bleeding profusely from the mouth, nose and rectum. The attending physician reported that the child had hematemesis the second day after birth. The child when admitted was very weak and pale and the cause of the bleeding could not be found. Ten cubic centimeters of sterile horse serum was immediately administered and under the skin normal salt solution. The child continued to bleed. Examination of the mouth and nose revealed nothing to explain further bleeding. The child was apparently moribund and stuporous, dissolution seemed to be a matter of minutes. Immediate blood transfusion was decided on. The blood was injected directly into the longitudinal sinus at the posterior angle of the anterior fontanelle. The infant was removed to the operating room, the head shaved, iodine applied over the fontanelle, 80 c.c. of whole human blood. During the operation the patient ceased to breathe and was thought to be dead. The heart sounds could still be heard. Eighty cubic centimeters more of blood were injected directly into the skin of the abdomen. Artificial respiration was used and after several gasps the child breathed. The color of the child grew steadily better, the bleeding ceased almost immediately. A second transfusion was contemplated but proved unnecessary. The child went on to recovery, but had for some time an irregular temperature. Examination of blood in the beginning of the child's treatment showed hemoglobin, 20 per cent.; red cells, 1,400,000; white cells, 12,000. On March 19, 1919, hemoglobin, 65 per cent.; red blood cells, 2,360,000; white blood cells, 10,000,000. The differential count was of no interest. On April 1, 1919, hemoglobin, 80; red blood cells, 3,600,000; white blood cells, 8200.